

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00425 031532Z

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ACTION CU-05

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R 031500Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3975

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0425

SECSTATE FOR CU/IVP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, LU

SUBJ: IVP LUXEMBOURG NOMINEE: MRS. LILIANE THORN-
PETIT

REF: 12 FAM 407.2-1 AND 407.2-2 AND CA-8585, OCT. 12/73

THE EMBASSY NOMINATES MRS. LILIANE THORN-PETIT AS ITS
FY 1975 IVP GRANTEE. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS
KEYED TO THE PARAGRAPHS OF REFAIR.

1. THORN-PETIT, LILIANE.

2. PRESENT POSITIONS: JOURNALIST, REPUBLICAIN LORRAIN;
LUXEMBOURG CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;
PRESIDENT OF THE LUXEMBOURG FEDERATION OF WOMEN.
PAST POSITIONS: PRESIDENT OF LUXEMBOURG ASSOCIATION OF
JOURNALISTS.

3. BORN JANUARY 24, 1933, DUDELANGE, LUXEMBOURG. MRS.
THORN IS A LUXEMBOURG CITIZEN.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00425 031532Z

4. TRAVEL ABROAD. MRS. THORN TRAVELS REGULARLY THROUGHOUT

WESTERN EUROPE AND HAS ACCOMPANIED HER HUSBAND ON SHORT BUSINESS TRIPS TO THE US. SHE HAS NOT HAD AN EXTENDED STAY IN THE US.

5. NO PREVIOUS US GOVERNMENT GRANT.

6. EXCORT IS REQUIRED.

7. ELIGIBLE FOR VISA.

8. REASON FOR NOMINATION: THE EMBASSY IS PURSUING EFFORTS TO CONTACT AND CULTIVATE LEADING PRESS AND TV OPINION MAKERS. A NEWSPAPER OF GROWING CIRCULATION IS THE LUXEMBOURG EDITION OF THE REPUBLICAIN LORRAIN, THE ONLY FRENCH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER IN LUXEMBOURG AND A NEWSPAPER THAT IS INFLUENTIAL AMONG LIBERALS, THE DOMINANT PARTY OF THE NEW LEFT-CENTER GOVERNMENT. MRS. THORN WRITES A REGULAR COLUMN FOR THE REPUBLICAIN LORRAIN AND IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND WIDELY READ JOURNALISTS IN LUXEMBOURG. HER COLUMN REFLECTS A WIDE-RANGING INTEREST IN SUCH DIVERSE SUBJECTS AS ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL JUSTICE, THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT, INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, HEALTH AND POPULATION PROBLEMS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. AN INDEPENDENT THINKER WHOSE VIEWS ARE RESPECTED, SHE IS ALSO THE LUXEMBOURG CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN LUXEMBOURG. SHE HAS INDICATED THAT SHE INTENDS TO CONTINUE HER JOURNALISTIC CAREER EVEN THOUGH HER HUSBAND, GASTON THORN, BECAME PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE NEW CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT THAT WAS FORMED ON JUNE 18, 1974.

9. ONE OF THE POST'S MAIN OBJECTIVES IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC OPINION FAVORABLE TO THE US AND THE AMERICAN POLICIES. ALTHOUGH THE US IS A FAVORITE AND OFTEN SYMPATHIC TOPIC OF THE LUXEMBOURG PRESS, WE FIND THAT PRESS ARTICLES ARE SOMETIMES DISTORTED AND OFTEN SHOW A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE US. WE HOPE THAT DIRECT EXPOSURE TO THE WIDE DIVERSITY OF AMERICAN LIFE AND CULTURE FOR SELECT LUXEMBOURG JOURNALISTS AND OPINION

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00425 031532Z

MAKERS CAN HELP TO IMPROVE THIS IMAGE AND MAINTAIN THE FRIENDLY ATTITUDE THAT LUXEMBOURGERS HAVE TOWARD AMERICANS. FARKAS

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